

Friday, September 24, 2010, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

Bayanihan

The National Dance Company of the Philippines



CAMI

Dr. Helena Z Benitez *Founder*
 Amb. Alfonso Yuchengco *Chairman*
 Dr. Lucrecia R. Kasilag *President*
 Suzie Moya Benitez *Artistic Director*
 Isabel A. Santos *Costume Director*
 Alfredo Q. Gomez, Jr. *Lighting Designer & Technical Director*
 Ferdinand B. Jose *Dance Director & Choreographer*
 Melito S. Vale Cruz *Music Director*
 Helen Legion *Costume Mistress*

Cal Performances' 2010–2011 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

PROGRAM

All-Time Favorites

Well loved Bayanihan dances that have placed the company on the world's stage for more than 50 years.

Alitaptap
 Pandanggo Oasiwas
 Maglalatik
 Sa Kabukiran
 Bangko
 Tinikling
 Asik
 Vinta Singkil

E-Bayanihan

Bayanihan ventures into the fusion of new technology and folk dance in capturing the unique traditions of individual towns and cities in the Philippines, such as Marikina, Pagsanjan, Laguna, and Mindanao. This suite is inspired by the Bayanihan's "Teaching and Touching Lives" program, a partnership with the local government leaders. The results of these studies and programs have been captured and projected onstage through the Bayanihan's artistic team's lens.

Bituing Marikit
 Valse Marikina
 Lerion
 Zapatero
 Labandera
 Bangkero
 Sayap / Rhythms of Gandingan

INTERMISSION

Mestizaje y Criolleria

The cross-cultural expressions in this suite echo almost 400 years of Spanish colonization. Bayanihan captures the fire and passion of the Spanish culture in dances and music once performed inside (*intramuros*) and outside (*extramuros*) the walls of Manila.

Silverio
 Bravo Caviteña
 En la Luneta

Malageña de Bailes
Sacramonte de Intramuros
Cancion
Habanero de dilao
El Cañi

The Philippinescape

The rhythms and colors of the Philippines. This suite is a fitting finale, celebrating the spirit of the Filipinos in their love of tradition, nature, and the environment. It includes Bayanihan's tribute to the master, National Artist Fernando Amorsolo, who gave life to the Philippine countryside and beautiful traditions in his masterpieces. Dances inspired by the studies done in partnership with the local governments of General Trias and Noveleta, Cavite, and Iloilo are recreated in this extravagant finale.

Amorsolo
Kasilyo
Kawayanan
Ang Maya
Fiesta Extravaganza

The program is subject to change.

CAST

Musicians

Timoteo Basco
Dominic Glenn Cruz
Rommel de la Cruz
Jose Laurence Leong
Rudolf S. Pabon
Rogelio C. Sambrano Jr.
Jezreel Lastra

Singer

Mary Anne Luis

Female Dancers

Marielle M. Benitez
Pamela Rose Corales
Charisse Cabera
Rachel Dawn Cudiamat

Leonor Petra Elepano
Karina Gabito
Louis Belle Ignacio
Mary Anne Luis

Male Dancers

Ferdinand Orbacedo
Peter Laurenz Callangan
Peter Laurent Callangan
Michael de la Chica
Paulo Emmanuel Garcia
Leo Laurence Q. Lorilla
Joseph Robert Manayan
Gian Carlo Yabut
Hubbert Cristian Guerrero
Corrigidor Reche Obillo

Bayanihan: A National Treasure

The Bayanihan story spans 43 years of performances the world over. It had its early roots in the Filipiniana Folk Music and Dance Committee of the Philippine Women's University (PWU). In 1957, the PWU Bayanihan Folk Arts Center and its performing arm, the Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company, were founded by Dr. Helena Z Benitez to conduct research in ethnic rites, tribal folklore, and regional folkways; to collect indigenous art forms as expressed in music, dance, literature, arts, and crafts; to distill and transform these cultural traditions into theatrical presentations; and to promote international understanding through cultural exchange and performances abroad.

The Company takes its name from the ancient Filipino tradition of Bayanihan, which signifies working together for the common good. It is this spirit of togetherness that bonded parents, teachers, researchers, technicians, dancers, and musicians, working as one to achieve the objectives of the Company.

As a civic response to a government appeal for a cultural program for the country's participation in the 1958 Brussels World's Fair, Bayanihan mounted a production titled *Glimpses of Philippine Culture Through Music and Dance*, which proved to be the sensation of the Fair and was featured on Ed Sullivan's national U.S. television broadcast of World's Fair highlights.

A year later, noted impresario Sol Hurok contracted Bayanihan for his annual International Dance Festival. Making its Broadway debut at the Winter Garden Theater on October 13, 1959, Bayanihan received the unanimous acclaim of New York critics—a feat which earned the Company the affectionate title “Cinderella of Dance Theater.” Critics were particularly impressed by the dancers' skill, grace, and *joie de vivre*, as well as by the Company's success in transferring indigenous dance and music traditions from their ancient origins in the countryside to the confines of the stage without sacrificing authenticity. Said *The New York Herald Tribune*: “Bayanihan is one of the newest examples of an ethnic dance culture which has gone beyond simple preservation (important as that is), and into creative growth.”

Since 1958, Bayanihan has mounted 15 large-scale international tours and over a hundred brief tours to international events and festivals, covering 55 countries on 5 continents. The first Filipino group to perform on Broadway, Bayanihan also has the distinction of being the first non-American dance company to take to the stage at New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, as well as the first Philippine cultural group to perform in Russia, the People's Republic of China, and throughout South America. As official Philippine representative at the first CIOFF World Folkloriada, held in the Netherlands in 1996, Bayanihan was one of the top five performing arts groups chosen from among 70 national groups to give repeat performances at the close of the festival. In 1998, Bayanihan commenced a centennial tour of Europe at the Lisboa World Expo, followed by performances in Monaco, Germany, France, Madrid, and in 16 cities in Galicia, northwest Spain.

Other significant accolades include the 1965 Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding; the 1960 Théâtre des Nations Award (folk dance category); 1978 and 1989 Program for Asian Projects grants awarded by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund/Ramon Magsaysay Foundation; and first prize (traditional costumes category at the the 54th Almond in Blossom Festival and 44th International Folk Festival in Sicily in 1999.

Bayanihan has awakened a new pride among Filipinos in their cultural heritage, preserved and added a new dimension to the country's dance tradition, and amassed a rich reserve of international goodwill. Bayanihan's example has encouraged the growth of numerous folk dance companies throughout the country, some of them organized by former Bayanihan dancers. The Company has also inspired other countries to exploit their own folk material for international presentation. Among these is Mexico, whose folkloric ballet group was formed after Bayanihan's first performances there.

In 2000, by an act of Congress, Bayanihan was officially designated the National Folk Dance Company of the Philippines. Recent activities include performances in Spain, England, and Holland in 2004, as well as performances at the Universal Forum on Culture in Barcelona and a

gala engagement at the Hôtel de Paris in Monte Carlo. In 2004, the Company participated in the Third World Folkloriada in Budapest and was selected by the City of Athens to perform at the Cultural Olympiad. In 2005, Bayanihan performed in over 80 cities throughout North America.

The Company last danced at Cal Performances in September 2006.

Dr. Helena Z Benitez (*Founder*) is one of the continuing motivating forces behind the Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company. She originally provided Bayanihan with an institutional base at her Philippine Women's University, the first university in Asia founded by Asians, where Bayanihan started to gain renown while perfecting its craft and repertoire in the 1950s. In the half-century since then, Dr. Benitez has continued to be its foremost patron and promoter, even as she pursued her career as an educator and made her mark in other fields. She served in the Philippine legislature as Senator and Member of Parliament for more than a decade. She was elected head of two United Nations bodies, the first Filipino to become chairperson of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, and first and only woman President of the UN Environment Programme. She has served on the executive board of the International Association of Universities and as chair of the Southeast Asian Council of the International Association of University Presidents. She has served as ambassador of the Philippines and headed Philippine delegations to many international conferences, including the UN Habitat Conference in Vancouver. Dr. Benitez is the only person to have served on the Board of Trustees of Bayanihan continuously throughout its existence. She currently serves as Chairperson of the Philippine Women's University System and of Bayanihan.

Renowned for her dual titles as National Artist for Music and the "First Lady of Philippine Music" and her roles as President and Music Director of Bayanihan, **Dr. Lucrecia R. Kasilag** is a pioneer in researching indigenous ethnic music and blending it with Western musical approaches. Her work in uniting the sounds of ancient ethnic instruments with Western music is in a class of its own.

An internationally acclaimed composer, she is also a highly accomplished educator, cultural entrepreneur, researcher, lecturer, and writer. In addition to her work with Bayanihan, she is active in various other organizations, including the Young Artists Foundation, the League of Filipino Composers, the Federation of Asian Cultural Promotion, and the Asian Composers League, which has designated her its honorary chairman. In 1993, Dr. Kasilag was elected one of five honorary members of the UNESCO International Music Council. In 1995, she won the fourth ASEAN Achievement Award granted by Singapore's ASEAN Business Forum for outstanding contributions to the performing arts.

Suzie Moya Benitez (*Artistic Director*) received her liberal arts degree in foreign service from Assumption College, a master's degree in public administration from the University of the Philippines, and a master's degree in strategic business economics from the University of Asia and the Pacific. She completed the program for development managers at the Asian Institute of Management under a Rockefeller Brothers grant. She is a professional lecturer on corporate image, social graces, business etiquette, and leadership skills. Ms. Benitez traveled around the world as a Bayanihan dancer and a Karilagan model from the late 1960s until 1977. Before joining the Bayanihan in 1996, Ms. Benitez has had extensive experience in public relations, sales and marketing, human resource development, and administration. She was the first woman vehicle sales manager at Toyota's dealership in Manila. She is the head of Personality Enrichment and Character Formation at Assumption College and Director of Special Events and Special Programs at PWU. As Executive Director of Bayanihan, she spearheaded the group's efforts for government recognition. She is married to businessman (and former Bayanihan dancer) Noel Benitez, and they are blessed with three children.

Born in the predominantly Muslim province of Lanao del Sur in the southern Philippines, **Isabel A. Santos** (*Costume Director*) has lived and traveled throughout the country researching native costumes. As Costume Director for Bayanihan since 1957, she has designed numerous costumes

based on her research on ethnic dress across the archipelago. Ms. Santos is co-author of the 1996 book, *Helena Z Benitez, Bayanihan and the Filipino: A Trilogy for Culture*. Formerly Costume Director for the Folk Arts Theatre and Cultural Consultant at the Office of the President of the Philippines from 1974 to 1986, she holds a bachelor's degree from PWU and a master's degree in English from Fordham University in New York. She spent her early career as Public Relations and Information Director at PWU and Bayanihan from 1953 to 1959. Recently, Ms. Santos received the Francisca T. Benitez award from PWU "for her significant contribution to the nurturing of the Filipino spirit and identity through her accomplishments in the arts, particularly of theatrical costuming, that captured the intrinsic and enduring beauty of Philippine costume." In 2003, she received the Antonio Villegas award for culture and arts given by the City of Manila, and in 2005 the award for costume design from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts in connection with the centennial of the Feminist Movement in the Philippines. Ms. Santos is also the author of *Bayanihan: A Memory of Six Continents*, a book on the history of Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company from 1956 to 2005.

Alfredo Q. Gomez, Jr. (*Lighting Designer*) has served as Bayanihan's Lighting Designer and Technical Director since 1987. He began his career as an instructor and facilitator in the theater lighting workshop of the Cultural Center of the Philippines and later went on to be lighting designer and technical director for the Philippine Ballet Theater, Tanghalang Filipino of the CCFI, Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company, Ballet Philippines, the Gantimpala Theatre Foundation at the Metropolitan Theatre, and others. A 1978 AB broadcast communication graduate of the College of Mass Communication at the University of the Philippines, he completed graduate studies in theater at UCLA, specializing in lighting design for film and television.

Ferdinand B. Jose (*Dance Director*) joined the Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company in 1976 and has toured the world extensively with the

group. Major works for which he has choreographed and designed include *Tribulink* (1996), *Klasika* (1997), and, more recently, *Kabayanihan Saludo*, Bayanihan's salute to the nation's centennial celebration of its independence. Since 1982, he has played a vital role on Bayanihan's research and program development teams and was made Acting Dance Director and Administrative Director for the company in 1995. Mr. Jose has studied traditional folk dance both locally and internationally, and has taken many courses on improvisation and composition for modern dance. He was honored to be chosen as a recipient of a study grant, under the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, administered by the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation for development managers at the Asian Institute of Management in Manila.

A member of Bayanihan since 1975, **Melito S. Vale Cruz** (*Music Director*) currently serves not only as Deputy Music Director but also as Assistant Dance Director, Videographer, Office Manager, and Officer-in-Charge of the audio-visual department at the company. His many awards include the 1994 outstanding Cavataire accolade. A graduate of management and marketing, he has toured the world extensively with Bayanihan and in 1992-1993 was an ASEAN exchange dance instructor based in Singapore. His other interests include short film production for dance, video production for dance and voice studies. He was a member of the Philippine Madrigal Singers from 1980 to 1986.

Bayanihan is represented by
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